

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 /093 W

-----079837 110729Z /17

R 102120Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7094

INFO AMCONSUL BELIZE

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

USUN NEW YORK 622

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L GUATEMALA 5041

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PBOR, GT, UK, BH

SUBJ: BELIZE: CONSTERNATION, CONFUSION GREET BOGOTA

SUMMIT DECLARATION

1. SUMMARY: WIRE STORY OUT OF BOGOTA REPORTING PRO-BELIZE  
JOINT DECLARATION OF THE ASSEMBLED LEADERS OF COLOMBIA, MEXICO,  
VENEZUELA, COSTA RICA, JAMAICA AND PANAMA HAS DISCOMFITED GOG.  
FACTS ARE CONFUSED, BUT LOCAL IMPRESSION IS ONE OF FURTHER  
WITHERING OF DIPLOMATIC SUPPORT FOR GUATEMALA. END SUMMARY.

2. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. AS TRANSMITTED BY LATIN, THE BELIZE  
PORTION OF THE BOGOTA COMMUNIQUE STATED THAT THE DISPUTE  
"SHOULD BE RESOLVED BY THE PEACEFUL MEANS ENSHRINED IN  
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THE OAS AND UN CHARTERS AND BY RESPECT FOR ITS (SIC)  
TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND THE PRINCIPLE OF FREE DETERMINATION  
OF PEOPLES" (EMBASSY TRANSLATION).

3. ACTING GUATEMALAN FOREIGN MINISTER LUIS AYCINENA  
DEFERRED COMMENT WHEN STORY FIRST BROKE HERE AUGUST 8.  
SPEAKING TO PRESS NEXT DAY, SYCINENA SAID HE HAD CONTACTED

COSTA RICAN FONMIN FACIO WHO "CLARIFIED" MATTERS BY REVEALING THAT PUBLISHED TEXT WAS PART OF AN EARLIER "VENEZUELAN" FORMULATION MISTAKENLY TRANSCRIBED BY COLOMBIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY'S SECRETARIAT FOR SUMMIT MEETING. FINALLY APPROVED TEXT SHOULD HAVE REFERRED INSTEAD TO "TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF STATES," ACCORDING TO AYCINENA'S ACCOUNT OF VERSION RECEIVED FROM SAN JOSE. LATTER WAS INSERTED "IN HIS OWN HAND" BY COSTA RICAN PRESIDENT ODUBER PRECISELY TO PROTECT GUATEMALAN POSITION -- BELIZE NOT BEING A "STATE" -- SAID AYCINENA. FACIO MEANWHILE HAS ASKED COLOMBIANS TO DISTRIBUTE THE "APPROVED" TEXT. "WE ARE MOST GRATEFUL TO THE COSTA RICAN GOVERNMENT," SYCINENA CONCLUDED.

END UNCLASSIFIED

4. COMMENT: THE OFFICIAL EXPLANATION HAS ALREADY BEEN GREETED WITH SOME CYNICISM BY THE GUATEMALAN PRESS. WE CAN EXPECT MORE. WHATEVER THE FACTS OF THE MATTER, THE EPISODE UNDERSCORES THE TENUOUSNESS EVEN OF GUATEMALA'S LATIN SUPPORT ON THE BELIZE ISSUE. THE GENERALLY GUARDED RESPONSES RECEIVED BY VICE PRESIDENT SANDOVAL ON HIS SUPPORT-SEEKING SWING THROUGH SOUTH AMERICA HAVE CONVEYED A SIMILAR MESSAGE. ALTHOUGH AN IMMEDIATE EMBARRASSMENT TO FOREIGN MINISTER MOLINA, TO THE EXTENT THE PERCEPTION OF INCREASING GUATEMALAN ISOLATION ON BELIZE BECOMES WIDESPREAD, CONFIDENTIAL

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IT MAY AID GOG EFFORTS TO EDUCATE PUBLIC OPINION TO THE NEED FOR A FLEXIBLE NEGOTIATING APPROACH WITH THE UK IN COMING MONTHS.  
BOSTER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
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**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
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